

Some EXTRACTS, out of Mr. James Stewart's LETTERS,
which were communicated to Myn Heer FAGEL, the States Pen-
sionary of the Province of Holland. Together with some References to
Mr. Stewart's printed Letter.

MR. Stewart, said about seven Months, after he had received the Pensionary's Letter, before he thought fit to write any Answer to it: and then instead of sending one in writing to the Pensioner, or in a Language understood by him, he has thought fit, by a Civility peculiar to himself, to print an Answer in English, and to send it abroad into the World, before the Pensioner had so much as seen it. The many and great Affairs that press hard upon that Eminent Minister, together with a sad want of Health, by which he has been long afflicted, have made that he had not the leisure to procure Mr. Stewart's Letter to be translated to him, and to compare the Matters of Fact related to in it, with the Letters that were writ the last year by Mr. Stewart, which are in his Possession; nor did he think it necessary to make too much haste: And therefore if he has let as many Weeks pass, without ordering an Answer to be prepared, as the other had done Months, he thought that even this Slowness, might look like one that despised this indecent Attempt upon his Honour, that Mr. Stewart has made in giving so unjust a Representation of the matter of Fact. He hopes he is too well known to the World, to apprehend that any Persons would entertain the hard Thoughts of him, which Mr. Stewart's late Print may have offered to them; and therefore he has proceeded in this matter, with the Slowness that he thought became his Integrity, since a greater Hast might have look'd like one that was uneasy, because he knew himself to be in fault. As for the reasoning part of Mr. Stewart's Paper, he has already expressed himself in his Letter to Mr. d'Albeville, that he will not enter into any Arguing upon those Points, but will leave the Matter to the Judgment of every Reader; therefore he has given order only to examine those Matters of Fact, that are set forth in the beginning of Mr. Stewart's Letter, that so the World may have a true account of the Motives that induced him to write his Letter to Mr. Stewart, from the Words of Mr. Stewart's own Letters: And then he will leave it to the Judgment of every Reader, whether Mr. Stewart has given the Matter of Fact fairly or not. It is true, the Pensioner has not thought fit to print all Mr. Stewart's Letters, at their full Length; there are many Particulars in them for which he is not willing to expose him: And in this he has shewed a greater Regard to Mr. Stewart, than the Usage that he has met with from him deserves: If Mr. Stewart has kept Copies of his own Letters, he must see that the Pensioner's Refusals is rather grounded on what he thought became himself, than on what Mr. Stewart has reserved of him. But if Mr. Stewart, or any in his name, will take Advantages from this, that the Letters

themselves are not published, and that here there are only Extracts of them offered to the World, then the Pensioner will be excused, if he prints them all to a Tittle: The Truth is, it is scarce conceivable how Mr. Stewart could assume the Confidence that appears in his printed Letter, if he have kept Copies of the Letters that he writ last Year: And if he engaged himself in Affairs of such Importance without keeping Copies of what he writ, it was somewhat extraordinary: And yet this Censure is that which falls the softest on him: But I will avoid every thing that looks like a sharpness of Expression; for the Pensioner expects, that he who is to give this Account to the English Nation, should rather consider the Dignity of the Post in which he is, than the Advantages that Mr. Stewart may have given for replying sharply on him. And in this whole matter the Pensioner's chief Concern is, to offer to the World such a Relation of the Occasions that drew his Letter to Mr. Stewart from him, as may justify him against the false Insinuations that are given: He owed this likewise as an Expression of his Respect and Duty to their Highnesses, in whose Name he wrote his Letter, and at whom all those false Representations are levelled, though they fall first and immediately upon himself.

The Sum of the Matter of Fact, as it is represented by Mr. Stewart, amounts to this, 'That he was so surprised to see in January last, the Pensioner's Letter to him in Print, that he was inclined to disbelieve his own Eyes, considering the remoteness of the Occasion that was given for that Letter: That he had never writ to the Pensioner, but was expressly cautioned against it; but that seeing the Sincerity of the King's Intentions, he was desirous to contribute his small Endeavours for the advancing so good a Work, and for that end he obtained Leave to write to a private Friend, who he judged might have Opportunity to represent any thing he could say to the best Advantage: But that of the Letters which he writ to his Friend, there were only two intended for Communication, in which he studied to evince the Equity and Experience, of repealing the Tests and the Penal Laws: And that with a peculiar regard to the Prince & Princess of Orange's Interest; and he desired that this might be imparted to Friends, but chiefly to those at the Hague. And that this was the Substance of all that he writ on that Occasion. But finding that the Prince had already declared himself in those Matters, he resolved to insist no further: Yet his Friend insinuating That he had still Hopes to get a more distinct and satisfying Answer, from a better Hand, though without naming the Person, he attended the Issue; and about the beginning of November, almost Three Months after his first writing, he

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received the *Penfioner's Letter*, though he had not writ to him (which is repeated again and again) and in it an Account of the *Prince and Princess of Orange's Thoughts* about the *Repeal of the Test and Penal Laws* (which he had not desired) upon which he took some care to prevent the publishing of it: But when he saw it in Print, he clearly perceived that it was printed in *Holland*; and so wonders how the *Penfioner* could say, that it was printed in *England*, which he found in his printed Letter to *Mr. d'Albeville*; he knows not upon what Provocation the *Penfioner* writ that Letter; but in it he finds that he writ, that he was desired by himself to give him an Account of the *Prince and Princess of Orange's Thoughts*, and that these pressing Desires were made to him by His Majesty's Knowledge and Allowance; this being so different from the Letters he had writ, of which he is sure that the Account he has given is true in every point, he was forced to vindicate the King's Honour and his own Duty. He writ not out of any Curiosity to know their Highnesses Thoughts, which were already known, they having been signified to the *Marquis of Albeville*, and therefore he had no Orders from the King for writing on that Subject, but only a Permission to use his little Endeavours for the advancing of his Service; but it was never moved to him to write, either in the King's Name, or in the Name of any of his Secretaries. This is *Mr. Stewart's* Account in the first Nine Pages of his Letter, and is set down in his own Words.

Now in opposition to all this, it will appear from the following *Extracts*, that *Mr. Stewart* writ to his Friend, as the most proper Interpreter for addressing himself to the *Penfioner*; That he repeated his Proposition frequently, finding his Friend unwilling to engage in so critical a matter. He gives great Assurances of his Majesty's Resolutions never to alter the Succession (which is plainly the Language of a Treaty) he presses over and over again to know the *Prince's* Mind, whose concurrence in the matter would be the best Guarantee of the Liberty. He by name desires his Letters may be shewed to the *Prince and Princess of Orange* (though he says, he only ordered them to be

shewed to *Friends at the Hague*; so it seems he has the modesty to reckon them among the number of his *Friends*; but it is a question whether their Highnesses do so or not.) He says in one Letter, *That what he writ was from his Majesty himself*, and enlarges more fully on this in two other Letters; and he desires, that the *Prince's Answers*, with his Reasons, might be understood; which very probably gave the Occasion to all the reasoning part of the *Penfioner's Letter*. And it appears by that Letter, that the Return to all this was expected by the King, and in almost every Letter he presses for a Return. And in Conclusion, upon his receiving the *Penfioner's Letter*, he expresses likewise a great sense of the Honour done him in it; that he had so far complied with his insignificant Endeavours, he mentions his acquainting both the King and the *Earls of Sunderland and Melfort* with it; and in another Letter, after new Thanks for the *Penfioner's Letter*, he laments that it was so long delay'd. But all these things will appear more evident to the Reader from the Passages drawn out of *Mr. Stewart's* own Letters, which follow. *Mr. Stewart* seems not to know upon what Provocation the *Penfioner* writ to *Mr. d'Albeville*, and yet the *Penfioner* had set that forth in the Letter it self; for the Pamphlet entitled *Parliamentum Pacificum*, that was licensed by the *Earl of Sunderland*, contained such Reflections on his Letter to *Mr. Stewart*, either as a Forgery, or as a thing done without the *Princess of Orange's* Knowledge, that the *Penfioner* judged himself bound in Honour to do himself right. As for *Mr. Stewart's* criticalness, in knowing that the *Penfioner's Letter* was first printed in *Holland*, and his Reflection on the *Penfioner* for insinuating that the Letter was first printed in *England*; it is very like that *Mr. Stewart*, after so long a Practice in Libels, knows how to distinguish between the Prints of the several Nations better than the *Penfioner*, whose course of Life has raised him above all such Practices. But it is certain, that wheresoever it was first printed, the *Penfioner* writ sincerely, and believed really it was first printed in *England*. This is all that seemed necessary to be said for an Introduction to the following *Extracts*.

July 12. 1687.

AND I assure you by all I can find here, the establishment of this equal Liberty is his Majesty's utmost Design — I wish your people at the Hague do not mistake too far both his Majesty and the Dissenters; for as I have already told you his Majesty's utmost Design, and have ground to believe, That his Majesty will preserve and observe the True Right of Succession, as a thing most sacred; so I must entreat you to remark, That the Offence that some of the Church of England Men take at — addressing, seems to me unaccountable, and is apprehended by the Dissenters to proceed so certainly from their former and wonted Spirit, that they begin to think themselves in large more Hazard from the Church of England's Re-exaltation than all the Papists their

Advantages. And next, that the Prince is thought to be abused by some there to a too great Mistrust of that which can never wrong him, but will in probability in the event be wholly in his own power — I hope you will consider and make your best use of these things — I expect an Account of this per h. f. I mean, an Answer to this Letter, and pray improve it to the best Advantage.

The Second Letter, without a Date.

THAT it is a thing most certain, that his Majesty is resolved to observe the Succession to the Crown as a thing most sacred, and is far from all Thoughts of altering the same; and that his Majesty is very desirous to have the Prince and Princess of Orange to consent to and concur with him in establishing this Liberty — So that upon the whole it may be

be feared, that if the Prince continue obstinate in refusing his Majesty, he may fall under Suspensions of the greatest part of England and of all Scotland, to be too great a Favourer of the Church of England, and consequently a person whom they have Reason to dread. And many think that this Compliance in the Prince, might be further a wise part, both as to the Conciliating of his Majesty's greater Favour, and the begotting of an Understanding betwixt the King and the States; and the Parliament will consent to the Liberty so much the rather, that they have a Protestant Successor in prospect. I cannot on these things make any conclusion, but simply leave them to your Reflection, and the best use you please to make of them. I will expect your Answer per first.

Windfor, July. 18. 1687.

THE Hints that I gave you in my two former Letters I shall now explain more fully in this. And therefore I heartily wish, that the Prince and Princess may understand all that you think needful on this Subject. It troubles his Majesty to find them so averse from approving this Liberty, and concurring for its Establishment. so that in truth I cannot see why their Highnesses should not embrace cheerfully so fair an Opportunity to gratify both his Majesty and the far greater and better part of the Nation. Now upon the whole; I expect that you will make all I have written fully known at the Hague, especially with the Prince. But the main thing I expect from you, is to have your mind, whether or not his Highness may be so disposed, as that a well Chosen Informer sent to himself might perfect the Work. And this Answer I will expect per first; wherever the Prince be, you know who are to be spoken and how. I again entreat your Care and Dispatch in this, with your Return.

London, July 29. 1687.

ME of the 30. July, with my last of the 26th. July. Sir will I am sure satisfy you fully; for therein I have indeed answered all can be objected, and have given you such an Account of the Confirmation of all I have writ from his Majesty himself, that I must think it a Fatality if your people remain obstinate. And I again assure you, if your people be obstinate, it will be fatal to the poor Dissenters, and I fear productive of Ills yet unheard of; and therefore pray consider my Letters, and let me know if there be any place to receive Information by a good Hand. but however, let us endeavour Good all we can, and I Assure you I have my Warrant. Hast your Answer.

Windfor, Aug. 5. 1687.

AND in a word, believe me, if the Prince will do what is desired, it is the best service to the Protestants, the highest obligation on his Majesty, and the greatest Advancement of his own Interest that he can think on; but if not, then all is contrary. But pray hast an Answer.

Windfor, Aug. 12. 1687.

I Have yours of the 17. Instant, long looked for; you remark, that you have received mine of the 26 of July, but say nothing of that of the 19. which was my fullest, and which I assure you was writ, not only with permission, but according to his Majesty's Mind sufficiently expressed; our Religion ought certainly to be dearer to us than all earthly Concerns. It is very true what you say, that mistakes about its Concerns (especially in such a time) may be of the greatest Importance, which no doubt should persuade to a very scrupulous Caution: But yet I am satisfied, That the simple Representing of what was wrote to you (which was all I required) was no such difficult Task. But to be plain with you, as my Friend, your Return was not only long delayed, but I observe such a Coldness in it, different from the strain of your former, that I think I mistake not when I understand by your Letter more than you express. I wish the P. may see or hear this from end to end.

London, Aug. 22. 1687.

I Have yours of the 16th. Instant; when I said your last was more Cool, I meant not as to your Affection, but as to your diligence in that Affair. for I am persuaded, that the establishing of this Liberty by Law, is not only the Interest of Protestant Dissenters above all others, but that his Highness's consenting to it, would be its secure Guarantee both against Changes and Abuses. As you love the Quicks of good Men and me, leave off Complements and Ceremonies, and discourse his Highness of all I have written. I am now hastening to Scotland. but may return shortly; for the King is most desirous to gain the Prince, and he will be undoubtedly the best Guarantee to us of this Liberty, and also to hinder all your Fears about Popery.

Newwark, Aug. 26. 1687.

BUT now I must tell you, that though I know to be my very good Friend, yet he hath not answered my Expectation; for you see that to seven of mine, he gave me not one Word of Answer, although I told him, that the substance of them was writ by the King's Allowance, and a Return expected by him. besides, the Answers he makes are either Generals or Complements, whereas my desire was, that the Prince should know things, and that his Answer with his Reasons might be understood, but my Friend has delayed and scruffled things.

From Scotland, Septemb. 24. 1687.

I Have yours of the 30th of Aug but have delayed so long to answer, because I had written other Letters to you whereof I yet expect the Return. my most humble Duty to my Friend at the Hague.

Edinburgh,

Edinburgh, Octob. 8. 1687.

AS for that more important Affair, wherewith I have long troubled you, I need add no more; my Conscience bears me Witness, I have dealt sincerely for the Freedom of the Gospel. I had certainly long ere now written to Pensioner Fagel, were it not that I judged you were a better Interpreter of any thing I could say: I know his real Concern for the Protestant Religion; and shall never forget his undeserved Respect to me; but alas! that Providences should be so ill understood.

London, Novemb. 8. 1687.

I Have yours of the 1st. of November—— the enclosed from the L. Pensionary surprise me with a Testimony of his Favour and Friendship, and also of his sincere Love to the Truth, and fair and candid Reasoning upon the present Subject of Liberty, beyond what I can express; he hath seriously done too much for me; but the more he hath done in compliance with my insignificant Endeavours, the more do I judge and esteem his noble and zealous Concern for Religion and Peace, which I am certain could only in this Matter be his just Motive: I hope you will testify to him my deep Sense of his Favour and most serious Profession of Duty with all Diligence, until I be in case to make his L. a direct Return. I showed the Letter to my Ld. Melfort, who was satisfied with it.

London, Novemb. 6. 1687. Which it seems is by a Mistake of the Date.

I Have your last, but have been so harassed and toiled, that I have not had time to write to you, much less to my L. Pensionary; yet since my last, I acquainted the Earl of Sunderland with his Answer, as the King ordered me; but I see all hope from your Side is given quite over, and Men are become as cold in it here as you are positive there.

London, Novemb. 19. 1687.

BY my last of the 8th. Instant, I gave you notice of the Receipt of my Lord Pensionary's Letter, and what was and is my Sense of his extraordinary Kindness and Concern in that Affair. Since that time I have had the Opportunity to shew them to the King, and at his Command did read to him distinctly out of the English Copy all the Account given of their Highnesses mind touching the Penal Statutes and the Test; and verbal, signified the Summ of what was subjoined, especially the Respect and Deference therein expressed to his Majesty's Person and Government; but to my own Regret, I find that this Answer hath been too long delayed, and that now the King is quite over that Matter, being no ways satisfied with the Distinction made of the Tests from the Penal Laws; and no less positive, that his Highness is neither to be prevailed upon, nor so much as to be further treated with in this Matter.

The Conclusion.

AND thus all that relates to the Occasion that drew the Pensioner's Letter from him, appears in its true light. If this Discovery is uneasy to Mr. Stewart, he has none to blame for it but himself. It is very likely the first Article of his merit, for the defacing of all that was past, was the Pains he took to work on their Highnesses, by the Pensioner's means: But that having failed him, the abusive Letter that he has published upon it may come in for a second Article: And now the Reproaches to which this Discovery must needs expose him, must compleat his Merit.

If upon all this he is not highly rewarded, he has ill Luck, and small Encouragement will be given to others to serve the Court as he has done. But if he has great Rewards, it must be acknowledged that he has paid dear for them; the printing and distributing 15000 Copies of his Letter, is only the publishing his Shame to 15000 Persons, though it is to be doubted if so many could be found in the Nation who would give themselves the Trouble to read so ill a Paper.

F I N I S.